already exists there in Whitefield near Bangalore and at Jiganin requiring minimum gestation period for the project to be in operation ; and

(d) with the surge in industrial activity expected alongwith the commissioning on Konkan rail link along Karnataka coast, whether Government would consider setting up another EPIP in Mangalore which is endowed with a major port and has registered rapid industrial growth in recent times ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The Government has formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for providing financial assistance to State Governments for the establishment of Export Promotion Industrial Parks (EPIP).

(b) Although the Government of Karnataka has indicated its interest in setting up EPIPs initially at Bangalore and subsequently at Mangalore, no project proposal has been received in this regard.

(c) While the Government of Karnataka had indicated that it had taken up development of an export-oriented industrial Zone at Whitefield in the context of is proposal of setting up of an Export Processing Zone there, it has not intimated about facilities being developed at Jiganin.

(d) It is proposed, in the first instance, to promote one EPIP in each State.

EXPORT FACILITIES SOUGHT BY NEPAL

2346. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Nepalese business delegation has sought facilities at Bombay Port for export of its products to other countries;

(b) if so, whether the Government has since decided to extend port facilities for exports to Nepal ;

(c) under what terms and conditions such facilities have been extended ;

(d) whether such a step of the Government would not create hurdle in the export of Indian goods ; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

MINIMUM EXPORT PRICE FOR TOBACCO

2347. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA :
SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to revive the minimum export price for Tobacco so that the farmers could get a reasonable price for their products; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Minimum-Export Price (MEP) for FCV tobacco has been abolished as a measure of trade liberalisation in the long term interests of the tobacco trade. It has been decided not to re-introduce MEP for tobacco, particularly in the current scenario of over supply in the international market.